

TRADITION FOUR

“Each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting other groups or NA as a whole.”


NA groups have a great deal of freedom. We've already seen in Tradition Three that groups are free of any need to screen their members or set requirements for membership. Our NA groups are free to offer recovery to any addict. The Fourth Tradition enhances that freedom, allowing the rich diversity of our varied experience to help us serve. Freedom can be exhilarating. Many of us have little experience with freedom of any sort. Our lives in active addiction often seemed more like slavery. When we first experience the freedom of recovery, we may find it overwhelming. Through working the steps, we learn that with freedom comes responsibility. In recovery, we become responsible for ourselves. As we accept that responsibility, we see how the Fourth Tradition encourages us to act responsibly as groups and as a fellowship.

NA groups are vehicles for the message of recovery. In the strength of the personal commitment group members make to one another, a group character forms. As this group character grows and evolves, the group finds ways in which it can do what no other group in town may be doing. The members of each group design a blueprint for meetings that reflect that particular group's personality.

Group autonomy gives groups the creative freedom to find individual ways to carry the message. NA is made up of a vastly diverse assortment of addicts joined together by the strength of their mutual commitment to recovery. We speak many different languages and live in differing cultures; one type of meeting will not appeal to every addict who comes to Narcotics Anonymous. In order to reach every addict who may need our help and support the recovery of every member, groups have the freedom to vary their format and other meeting characteristics. Each group has the freedom to pursue our primary purpose in the manner it feels will work best.

Every group has a niche to fill, both in the fellowship as a whole and in the local NA community. As a fellowship, our ability to reach still-using addicts is tied to our willingness to offer meetings that are accessible and attractive to those addicts. With the creative freedom offered by autonomy, we are encouraged to seek the particular role that meets the needs of both the NA community and our own group. We are free to make each group the very best it can be. The vitality of Narcotics Anonymous is enhanced by each group's willingness to find its niche and fill it.

Unity Day IV schedule

1:00-1:45	Registration & Welcome: theme - Tradition Four
1:45 - 2:45	speaker..... Rubin, Austin , TX - <i>Auditorium</i> workshop 4th Tradition study - <i>Conference Room</i>
2:45 - 3:00	break
3:00 - 4:00	speaker.....Dion S., Bowie, MD - <i>Auditorium</i> workshopSpanish workshop, Danny, San Antonio, TX - <i>Conference Rm</i>
4:00- 4:15	break
4:15- 5:45	Participation Meeting - <i>Auditorium</i>
5:45 - 6:00	break
Registration - closes at 6pm	
6:00 - 7:30	dinner break - <i>Ballroom/Mezzanine</i>
7:30 - 8:30	speaker..... Bea L., Los Angeles, CA - <i>Auditorium</i>
8:30- 9:45	Music Soul School -- A high-energy dance band with over 150 years of combined entertainment experience, Soul School offers a vast repertoire of music which includes Rhythm and Blues, Jazz, Rock, Funk, Golden Oldies, Beach, Motown, Country, and Contemporary. Prepare to be impressed by Soul School's smooth, harmonious vocals and exciting stage show.
9:45- 10:15	break
10:15-11:30	Music Soul School --  "One of the most Dynamic and Energetic bands in Colorado"